

How can my family sign up for the Guide-By-Your-Side Program?

The Guide-By-Your-Side Program is free of charge. All you need to do is:

- Tell your child's audiologist or doctor (provider) that you would like to meet with a Parent Guide.
- Sign forms that will allow your child's provider to share information with the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.
- Know that your child's provider will contact the Guide-By-Your-Side Program.
- Expect a Parent Guide to contact you shortly after.

If you have questions or concerns please call Sally-Ann at (608) 266-7032. For more information about the Guide-By-Your-Side Program visit our website: www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov



The Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WESPDHH) - Outreach supports children who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind by providing a broad array of services to families and educational programs. Services are provided at no cost and are based on the needs of each individual child.



WESPDHH - Outreach is a program of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Learning Support: Equity and Advocacy.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

*A free program
for families*



*with young
children
who are deaf or
hard of hearing*

Supported by:
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What is the Guide-By-Your-Side Program?

*The Guide-By-Your-Side Program is free of charge and strives to serve **every eligible** family in Wisconsin. This program can help you meet another parent who also has a deaf or hard of hearing child. This Parent Guide will be able to:*

- answer questions for you
- share what it is like to parent a child who is deaf or hard of hearing
- talk about the many different ways you might communicate with your child
- connect you with other people and resources that might be able to help you like:
 - your county Birth to 3 Program
 - local schools
 - parent groups

Who are the Parent Guides?

Parent Guides...

- have children of various ages who are deaf or hard of hearing
- have been trained to provide support and information
- will keep all information about your child and family private
- can work with you no matter where you live in Wisconsin

Parent Guides speak your language:

- English
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Spanish / *Espanol*

How does the Guide-By-Your-Side Program Work?

- A local Parent Guide will call you
- Your Parent Guide will visit with your family 3 times...
 - In your home or another place of your choice
 - At a time that works for you
 - For up to 2 hours each visit

Quotes from Parents

“When I found out about my child’s hearing loss there was a flood of overwhelming emotions. There was so much to feel, so much to do, I didn’t know where to start. Having another parent to guide me through this transitional period would have been invaluable.”

“No one understands what it is like to have a deaf child, that feeling of something lost, unless you have a deaf child yourself.”

“I remember driving home from the hospital feeling lost with no idea where to turn or what to do next”.



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